

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re application of: |) | Attorney Docket No. 087522785134 |
| Kottman, Mark A. |) | |
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| Application No.: |) | 09/684,462 |
| |) | |
| Filed: |) | October 6, 2000 |
| |) | |
| For: |) | MODULAR WALL PANEL |
| |) | CONSTRUCTION |
| |) | |
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| |) | |
| Art Unit: |) | 3635 |
| |) | |
| Confirmation No.: |) | 3279 |

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Previously Presented) A method for constructing and installing a modular wall panel assembly comprising the steps of:

forming a generally rectangular frame comprising rigid channel members
including a lower generally horizontal channel member;

providing a base rail and securing said base rail to said lower channel member in spaced parallel relation thereto;

providing a pair of glide assemblies on opposite ends of said base rail, said glide assemblies each including a generally vertically oriented threaded member threadedly connected to said glide assemblies;

providing a pair of apertures in said lower channel member each aperture overlying a threaded member and having an axis aligned with a longitudinal axis of said threaded member;

placing said frame, base rail and glide assemblies in vertical orientation on a floor;

inserting a rotary tool vertically through said apertures to engage said threaded members; and

rotating said threaded members selectively to thereby level said frame on said floor.

Claim 2 (Original) The method of claim 1 including the step of attaching decorative panel members to said frame after said frame has been leveled.

Claim 3 (Original) The method of claim 1 including the step of attaching a base panel member to said lower channel member and base rail to conceal said glide assemblies.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented) A modular panel assembly comprising:

- a wall frame including a generally horizontal lower member;
- a base rail beneath said lower member;
- a connector attached to said base rail and to said lower member wherein said frame is supported by said connector above said base rail, said connector including a threaded sleeve positioned between said base rail and said lower member;
- an adjustment member for supporting said wall frame and said base rail, said adjustment member having a threaded stem for engaging said threaded sleeve of said connector, and said threaded stem including a tool receiving upper end portion disposed between said base rail and said lower member; and
- a tool receiving aperture in said lower member aligned vertically above said tool receiving upper end portion of said threaded stem of said adjustment member, said aperture and said threaded stem having parallel axes.

Claim 5 (Original) The wall panel assembly of claim 4 including decorative panel members secured to said frame.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) The wall panel assembly of claim 4 including a base panel member secured to said lower member of said frame.

Claim 7 (Cancelled)

Claim 8 (Previously Presented) A method for vertically adjusting a modular wall panel assembly comprising the steps of:

forming a wall frame including a lower generally horizontal member;

providing a base rail;

providing a pair of glide assemblies;

operatively connecting said glide assemblies to said base rail and said lower member of said wall frame, said glide assemblies each including a generally vertically oriented adjustment member;

providing a pair of apertures in said lower member of said wall frame, each aperture vertically aligned above an adjustment member, said aperture having an axis disposed parallel to an axis of said adjustment member;

inserting a rotary tool vertically through said apertures to engage said adjustment members; and

rotating said adjustment members with said rotary tool.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) A modular panel assembly comprising:

a frame having a lower member having opposite end portions;

a rail positioned below said lower member and extending parallel thereto, said rail having opposite end portions;

first and second structures ~~a pair of lower brackets, each bracket being attached to~~
said rail and to said lower member for connecting supporting said frame at a ~~fixed~~ distance from
said rail, and each of said first and said second structures ~~brackets~~ including a threaded portion
~~sleeve~~ having a longitudinal central axis extending in a vertical direction;

a pair of vertically oriented threaded ~~adjustment~~ members, each threaded
~~adjustment~~ member being received by a corresponding threaded portion ~~sleeve~~, each of said
threaded ~~adjustment~~ members having a vertically oriented ~~vertical~~ longitudinal axis and an upper
end portion being structured and dimensioned for receiving a tool to cause rotation of said
threaded ~~adjustment~~ member around said ~~vertical~~ longitudinal axis; and

a pair of horizontally disposed apertures in said lower member structured ~~having~~
~~vertical axes~~ and dimensioned to allow passage of a vertically oriented tool to enable said tool to
make operative engagement ~~operable contact~~ with said upper end portion of said threaded
~~adjustment~~ member.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) The modular panel assembly as claimed in claim 9
wherein:

each of said first and said second structures ~~brackets~~ is attached to an end portion
of said rail and an end portion of said lower member.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented) The modular panel assembly as claimed in claim 9
wherein:

said lower member includes vertically disposed side walls about said aperture.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented) The modular panel assembly as claimed in claim 11
wherein:

said lower member includes vertically disposed apertures in said side walls structured and dimensioned to receive snap-fit fasteners.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) The modular panel assembly as claimed in claim 9 wherein:

said rail includes a pair of apertures for receiving said threaded adjustment members.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) The modular panel assembly as claimed in claim 9 wherein:

each of said first and said second structures connects brackets including structure ~~for connecting~~ to a kick plate.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended) The modular panel assembly as claimed in claim 9 wherein:

said upper end portion of each of said threaded adjustment members ~~has~~ having the form of a hex head.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended) The modular panel assembly as claimed in claim 10 wherein:

said rail includes a pair of apertures for receiving said threaded adjustment members.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented) The modular panel assembly as claimed in claim 16 wherein:

said lower member includes vertically disposed side walls about said aperture;
and

said lower member includes vertically disposed apertures in said side walls structured and dimensioned to receive snap-fit fasteners.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended) The modular panel assembly as claimed in claim 17 wherein:

each of said first and said second structures connects brackets including structure ~~for connecting to a kick plate; and~~

said upper end portion of each of said threaded adjustment ~~members~~ has ~~having~~ the form of a hex head.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended) A method for constructing and installing a modular wall panel assembly comprising the steps of:

providing a generally rectangular frame, said frame having a lower member;

providing a base rail;

providing a pair of support structures ~~bracket assemblies~~;

attaching said pair of support structures ~~bracket assemblies~~ to said lower member and to said rail such that said rail is generally parallel to and spaced from said lower member with said lower member being at a higher elevation than said rail;

said support structures ~~brackets~~ each including a threaded portion ~~sleeve~~ aligned to have a longitudinal axis in a vertical direction;

said lower member having horizontally disposed apertures aligned such that said longitudinal axis of each threaded portion ~~sleeve~~ passes through a corresponding aperture;

providing a pair of threaded ~~adjustment~~ members having upper ends structured and dimensioned to receive a tool;

rotating said threaded adjustment members into said corresponding threaded portions sleeves;

placing said frame, rail and support structures brackets in a vertical orientation on a floor;

inserting a rotatable tool generally vertically through said apertures of said lower member in general alignment with said longitudinal axes of said threaded portions sleeves and engaging said upper ends of said threaded adjustment members; and

rotating said tool and said threaded adjustment members to horizontally level said frame in relation to said floor.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 19 including the step of wherein:

attaching said support structures pair of brackets to end portions of said lower member and said rail.